

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update ~~to an update service node or a client computer~~, comprising:

an identifier element that uniquely identifies a software update; and
at least one additional element of the following elements:

a property elements element storing general properties relating to the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update;

a localized property elements element for storing language specific information directed to a computer user relating to the software update;

a relationship elements element storing relationships the software update has to other software updates;

a rule elements element storing rules for determining the applicability of the software update to a client computer;

a file elements element identifying the identified software update's payload and information relating to the software update's payload; and

a handler elements element storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software update;

wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.

2. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

3. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the at least one or more additional elements are logically ordered according to the above-described order.

4. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the identity element includes a unique identifier that uniquely identifies the software update, and a revision number associated with the software update.

5. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies a second software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

6. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 5, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the relationship element further includes information identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on a client computer.

7. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the relationship element includes bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

8. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of software updates are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement,

such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software updates for installation on a client computer.

9. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the relationship element includes supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively, and supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on a client computer.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein ~~[[each]]~~ the file element further includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer and replacing existing files on a client computer.

14. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update to an update service node or a client computer, comprising:

an identifier element that uniquely identifies a software update; and

at least one additional element of the following elements:

a property elements element storing general properties relating the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update;

a relationship elements element storing relationships the software update has to other software updates;

a file elements element identifying the identified software update's payload and information describing information relating to the software update's payload; and

a handler elements element storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software update;

wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.

15. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

16. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the identity element includes a unique identifier that uniquely identifies the software update, and a revision number associated with the software update.

17. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies a second software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein [[each]] the relationship element further includes information identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on a client computer.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the relationship element includes bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of software updates are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software updates for installation on a client computer.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the relationship element includes supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively,

and supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

23. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer.

24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein [[each]] the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on a client computer.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein [[each]] the file element further includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer and replacing existing files on a client computer.